

RASA-5142

6-124-27

Chief of Station, Vienna  
Attn: Chief of Base, Salzburg

28 November 1958

INFO: Chief, EE

**ORGROOND/GRBOUNCE/OPERATIONAL**  
**Personal Weapons for U/W Agents**

**REFERENCES:** a. ROMA-35530, 2 July 1958  
b. RAVA-20378, 29 July 1958  
c. RAVN-12118, 30 October 1958

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

**ACTION REQUIRED:** See paragraph 1 below.

1. As agreement has been reached with both COS and Headquarters that small arms may be cached for our agents (see references), we should now proceed and come to agreement on some basic principles with regard to this activity:

a. Small arms provide personal defense to be sure, but more importantly, they provide agents with moral support, and at this time, indicate that we are thinking of their welfare, particularly when they request this type of support.

b. For this reason alone they should know where the weapons are at this time. However, a more imperative reason for this knowledge being in their possession is the practical matter of being unable to determine either when the time has arrived for them to know, or being unable in all probability, to communicate with them in a sudden hot-war situation. (It may also be a long period before any agent will be able to activate his W/T set or otherwise communicate with us.)

c. Thus the weapons should be cached and the agent should know the location of this cache as soon as possible.

d. The weapons should under no condition be bought by the agents on the open market. (See below a description of the Austrian law regarding the purchase of weapons.) All such purchases are registered and the registration lists would in all probability fall into the hands of any invader of Austria and immediately followed up.

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e. Thus we must supply the weapons. They should not be attributable to U. S. sources both because of present political circumstances in Austria and for the protection of the agent later.

f. The agents should be trained in the use of the weapon which will be cached for them.

2. Decisions regarding the location of caches and the type of weapon most suitable, will depend to a large extent on the needs and circumstances of the individual agent. When we have reached agreement on the above principles, we will proceed to outline the details regarding the caching of weapons for each individual agent and requisition of the items we require.

Note on Austrian Law: Any person desiring to purchase a weapon in Austria must first of all have been a resident of this country for a period of at least three months. Next, he must fill out an Erwerbschein at the store of his choice from which he desires to purchase a weapon. When this has been approved by the police, he returns and purchases the weapon of his choice. The number of the weapon is registered on the Erwerbschein which is then forwarded to the police by the store concerned. The police then issue a Waffenschein, or license, to the purchaser. No person may purchase a weapon of larger caliber than 8 mm in Austria. Such weapons are manufactured here but may be issued only to the military or KRIFO, or may be sold to others if sent to an address outside of Austria, i. e., for export. There is no registration by the police of buyers of hunting weapons, the shops simply noting a name and address of buyer. Therefore, for our purposes, these weapons are in a different category.

Distribution:

3 - Vienna  
2 - RE

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